

Kids and your new Dane

Kids and danes can coexist in harmony given a few common sense rules of the household and an understanding of basic animal behavior. Here are some tips/rules to follow and to share with your kids. Consult with your vet or animal behaviorist if you notice any problems between your new pet and children.

8. Parents must realize that most dogs do not consider children as figures of authority. Kids should be taught never to stare at or corner a dog. Dogs do not like quick movements (such as kids running), loud toys, or high pitched screams. A screaming child running past a dog can be bitten by the dog because the dog may instinctively react as they would to the distress sounds of prey animals. Kids need to be taught **TO USE THEIR “INSIDE” VOICES AND TO WALK WHEN AROUND DOGS.** Kids should never run from dogs nor scream around dogs!
9. A pet should not be left alone with a child less than 8 years of age. If you leave the room where both kids and pets are, you need to either take the pet or the kids with you. Even if it is just to answer the phone, see who is at the door, etc.
10. Provide a crate or room where the pet can escape the children. Make the crate/room a private place that children are not allowed to enter. Kids should be taught that if the pet is in the crate, then you leave the pet alone. No poking fingers in there – No dragging pet out of crate – No putting items in the crate.
11. A dog should be monitored frequently when left alone in a fenced backyard to assure that neighborhood children do not tease him. A teased dog will eventually learn to hate children and can turn aggressive to protect himself. NEVER tie a dog in the yard and leave him unattended. Most bites occur when children run upon a tied dog.
12. Kids should leave the pet alone when the pet is eating. They should not even be present in the same room. Never allow a child to touch doggie chews, dog food, or special dog toys while the dog is present.
13. Kids should be taught to pat the pet gently...do not hang on the dog's neck or try to ride like a horse, do not squeeze, pull ears, private parts, or tail. Kids should be taught the proper way to hold young animals...do NOT hold puppies by the neck. Teach kids to not tie things around the pet such as clothing, jump ropes, etc.
14. Do not play tug of war with a dog who is around children. He will learn that anything he can grab is his, which could lead to him grabbing child's toys, clothing, and appendages. He will also learn that trying to take things from you, especially when you resist, is a form of play. Also, if you LOSE the tug of war game with your dog, he will see himself as dominant over you.
15. Do not allow kids to chase dogs nor be chased by them.